

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



June 21, 2010

**Notice of Availability Related to the
Revised Staff Assessment for the proposed
Blythe Solar Power Project (09-AFC-6)**

The California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) staff filed a Revised Staff Assessment (RSA) on June 4, 2010 for the proposed Blythe Solar Power Project.

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the RSA for the proposed Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP). The RSA contains the Energy Commission staff's environmental, public health and engineering evaluation of the proposed BSPP.

Written comments on the RSA should be provided by July 8, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. to Alan Solomon, Senior Project Manager at the address on this letterhead (please add "Mail Stop 15") or by email to asolomon@energy.state.ca.us.

The RSA will serve as the Energy Commission staff's testimony during the Commission's evidentiary hearings. The Energy Commission Committee assigned to the BSPP proceedings will consider and weigh the testimony, comments, and recommendations of all interested parties, including Energy Commission staff, the applicant, intervenors, public, and other local, state, and federal agencies, before issuing the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) for consideration by the full Energy Commission. The public, intervenors, local, state and federal agencies are encouraged to participate in these hearings.

Background

On August 24, 2009, the California Energy Commission received an Application For Certification (AFC) from Palo Verde Solar I¹ to construct and operate the Blythe Solar Power Project in Riverside County. On October 26, 2009, a Supplement to the AFC was received and evaluated by staff. Subsequently, at the Energy Commission's November 18, 2009 Business Meeting, the AFC was deemed complete, beginning staff's analysis of the proposed project.

¹ Chevron Energy Solutions and Solar Millennium have a joint development agreement. Chevron Energy Solutions applied for the Right of Way for Blythe Solar Power Project. To facilitate the permitting of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP), the Applicant is requesting that the CEC issue one License to a Project- specific company. The company for BSPP is Palo Verde Solar I, LLC a wholly owned subsidiary of Solar Millennium and the single Applicant for the BSPP.

Project Description

The Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) is a concentrated solar thermal electric generating facility with four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250 megawatt (MW) nominal capacity each for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The project is proposed to be located in the southern California inland desert, approximately eight miles west of the city of Blythe and two miles north of the Interstate-10 freeway in Riverside County, California. The applicant is seeking a right-of-way grant for approximately 9,400 acres of lands owned by the Federal government and administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Construction and operation of the project would disturb a total of about 7,044 acres.

The project would generate electric power through solar energy using parabolic trough technology. Pipelines supplying water would be routed from on-site wells to water treatment units. Water would be used principally for solar mirror washing, feedwater makeup, onsite domestic use, cooling of auxiliary equipment, and firewater supply. Total water consumption for the project is estimated at 600 acre-feet per year.

A natural gas pipeline for cold start up would be installed parallel to the project's new access road and would tie into a gas transmission pipeline south of Interstate-10. Proposed electric transmission lines would connect each steam turbine generator to a central internal switchyard. From this switchyard, a new transmission line would interconnect with Southern California Edison's regional transmission system at its planned Colorado River substation. If approved, project construction would begin in the fourth quarter of 2010, with commercial operation commencing in the second quarter of 2013.

Energy Commission Review Process

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under CEQA.

Because the project is proposed to be developed on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the BLM is reviewing the project as the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The initial environmental review document for Blythe (Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Study, SA/DEIS) was conducted jointly by the Energy Commission and the BLM and published on June 4, 2010. The final environmental review documents for this project will be published separately (the RSA for the Energy Commission staff and a Final EIS for the BLM).

Public Resources, Contact Information and Additional Sources for Information

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Alan Solomon, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 653-8236, or by email at asolomon@energy.state.ca.us.

If you desire information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4701, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at

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publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us. News media inquiries should be directed to (916) 654-4989, or by email at mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

The status of the proposed project, copies of notices, electronic versions of the AFC, SA, RSA, and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_blythe/index.html. You can also subscribe to receive email notification of all notices at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>.

Availability of the AFC and RSA Documents

Copies of the AFC and RSA are available for public inspection at the following libraries:

Riverside Main Library
3581 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Lake Tamarisk Library
43880 Lake Tamarisk Dr
Desert Center, CA 92239

Coachella Branch Library
1538 Seventh St
Coachella, CA 92236

Cathedral City Branch Library
33520 Date Palm Dr
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Palo Verde Valley District Library
125 West Chanslor Way
Blythe, CA 92225-1245

Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Eureka, San Francisco, Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego. In addition, copies will be distributed to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

Sincerely,

Date: _____

ROGER JOHNSON, Siting Office Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection
Division

Enclosure:
Mailed to lists: 7366 - General, 7367 - Property Owners

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**Please send me a Paper Copy / CD (Circle One) of the
Revised Staff Assessment for the Proposed Blythe Solar
Power Project**

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

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California Energy Commission
Attention: Hilarie Anderson
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

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